GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5796
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
PROGRESS IN OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in the field of Ocean Development during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements of the department;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken for further advancement in this field?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) During the last five years, the Department launched four new programmes specifically for assessment of non-living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ). These are Gas Hydrates, Comprehensive Swath Bathymetric Survey of entire Indian EEZ, Geophysical Study of the Laxmi Basin, and Acquisition of a new vessel. The activities under these programmes are well underway. Besides, Department has also established various infrastructure facilities in the 3 autonomous bodies namely National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), required to address technology development, information services and ocean research, respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Ice-core laboratory has been setup at National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR). An 8-member Indian delegation led by the Hon`ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Ocean Development, visited Antarctica to assess and to lay down the future strategies for Polar Science programmes. A demonstration plant for extraction of metals from the polymetalic nodules was commissioned under the poly-metallic nodule programme. A remotely operable vehicle was developed and tested to a depth of 200 m. Ocean information services such as Experimental Ocean State Forecast and Integrated Potential Fishing Zone Advisories were launched. A regional alliance among the Indian Ocean Rim countries was established to address the Global Ocean Observing System for the Indian Ocean (IO-GOOS). The Ocean observational network has been significantly strengthened by deployment of 20 Moored Buoys and 61 Argo Profiling Floats and 3 current meter arrays. Scientific and technical data have been acquired for delineation of the outer limits of the Indian continental shelf. An Indo-Russian Science & Technology Centre for Gas Hydrate Studies has been set up in the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Campus at Chennai. An acoustic test facility has been created at NIOT. Technology has been developed for indigenous production of Moored data buoys and Acoustic Tide gauges. Besides, NIOT has carried out coastal engineering projects i.e. construction of Haldia Dyke, surveys for Kalpasagar and Sethusamudaram projects. Two-laboratory scale desalination plants, each having a capacity of 500 and 5000 liter per day, were developed based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). A 1-lakh litre per day capacity desalination plant at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep is in advanced stage of commissioning. Assessment of Marine Living resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India has been strengthened considerably. Under the Drugs from the Sea programme, 2 out of 7 identified active compounds are in the advanced stage of drug development. Lobster and Crab fattening technology has been developed. Department has prepared a programme for establishment of a tsunami warning system in coordination with other scientific departments such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Space (DOS).

(d) Does not arise.